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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1908.

THAT \$500,000,000 PROPOSITION.

No one who realizes the vital importance to the country of ample transportation facilities, will lift up his voice against liberal appropriations by the national government for improvements to rivers and harbors wherever the investment will bring returns.

The National Rivers and Harbors Congress now in session at Washington probably will go on record before its close in favor of a bond issue to the amount of \$500,000,000 to be expended upon harbors and waterways.

This immense sum of money properly distributed over a period of ten years, fifty millions per year, would prove one of the best investments ever made in the name of the people.

Improperly distributed, that is, upon the assumption that each section shall have its mess of pork irrespective of whether or not streams flow through it, such an outlay would develop a disgraceful national scandal.

Nothing has retarded useful improvements to real harbors and baffle navigable streams in past years so much as the greed of members of Congress from interior districts to secure in every rivers and harbors appropriation bill a liberal share to be expended upon impossible projects in their respective districts. Heretofore appropriations have not been distributed in accordance with the requirements of commerce, but with special regard for the political influence and power wielded by the persons demanding liberal treatment at the vaults of the United States treasury.

When Senator Carter, of Montana, several years ago talked a rivers and harbors bill to death in the closing hours of a session, the text of his opposition was taken chiefly from photographs of a Texas river bed, for the improvement of which the bill carried \$500,000—more than Norfolk and Newport News combined ever received in a lump sum. This Texas stream flowed two or three months in the year over and through rocks and snags, with occasional falls over rocky cliffs. The rest of the year no water flowed at all but lay in stagnant pools here and there.

But the Texas senators were mighty in the committee room and doubles had effected reciprocal arrangements with senators from other states containing burlesque waterways.

If the Rivers and Harbors National Congress will devise means whereby politics, greed and graft will not swallow up the major portion of the proposed \$500,000,000 bond issue, it is safe to predict that the project will receive sufficiently united support to carry it through.

If it be left to congressmen and senators to arrange amongst themselves where and how \$500,000,000 shall be spent for the improvement of commerce and navigation, the proposition should receive about the same consideration as though the amount were intended for establish-

ing a railroad line to the planet Mars.

PRESIDENT'S HOME THRUST.

Those congressmen and senators who have waxed wroth over the admission in President Roosevelt's message to the secret service branch of the treasury department, need expect only hosts and jeers from the people. Following the conviction of Senator Mitchell and a congressman, both from the State of Oregon, on charges of collusion in extensive public land frauds, the House and Senate at the last session inserted an amendment in an appropriation bill providing that there should be no further detail from the secret service department to search out such offenders.

The two national legislators were indicted and given severe sentences upon evidence brought to light by secret service men. The latter were loaned to the department of justice for this very purpose.

The Oregon United States district attorney was found to be in such intimate political sympathy with the culprits as to preclude the possibility of real, conscientious prosecution on his hands. He was removed and Francis J. Heney, who now is harassing the San Francisco grafters was appointed special prosecutor. Heney did his work so thoroughly that a wealthy United States senator was given a penitentiary sentence. Death mercifully laid its hands upon Mitchell while an appeal was pending.

The efficiency of the secret service men apparently terrified a majority of both branches of Congress. Perhaps the question was asked: "Whence may come next?" Heney the turnabout and take advantage of the first tickle.

PROPER CLOTHES FOR MEN

Peyser SaysHE IS OFFERING FOR 20
DAYS ANY**Suit or
Overcoat**
In the House at a Discount of
20 Per Cent.
ON THE DOLLAR

THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE A GOOD SUIT OR OVERCOAT AT A GOOD DISCOUNT. COME EARLY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FIRST TICKLE.

2715 Washington Ave.
Newport News, Va.

century economic philosophy is. No one knows, we imagine, except Mr. Roosevelt, and he evidently supposed that one thing has come into being during his administration, just as he limits his exultation of the nation's fitness to "the period from July 1st to September 30, 1908." From the New York Times,

Best Thing About It.

Such is the way the world is moving with gravity.

"Not only," was the reply, "there was a tone of disappointment in his voice as he said, 'I thought it was a case that deserved a large sum,' he believes that the last thing about Mr. Roosevelt's valiant message is the certainty that Congress will pay no attention whatever to the most important feature of his program.

To measure accurately the influence involved in his corporation policies it is necessary only to ask what the effect upon transportation, industry, commerce and labor would be if such a President as Theodore Roosevelt himself were interested with the powers that he holds in the chief executive—everywhere.

"Will Mrs. Adele Roosevelt be present at the trial?" was asked.

"She should say not," was the quick reply. "She will be released."

The case will be tried in Richmond, Davis contended, if he did not himself, because he believes that the women up to the conclusion of the trial.

Woman Face of Justice.

Mrs. Adele Roosevelt, the secret weapon in the prosecution of Davis, was when informed that the immediate participation of the state in the trial of the defendant would be necessary, she said, "I don't care if they do not let me do that."

She will have to face Mr. Davis as his accuser, but she will not be called to give her testimony in the courtroom, she said.

Mr. Davis' defense team, however, will be called to give their testimony in the courtroom.

"I only wished to let you know to be the truth," said today, referring to the trial of Davis, that I can say all they did not collect him."

Charles E. Jones, who received his master's degree in the First National Park,

"I have felt for many months now about the outcome of the trial," said he.

**COMMISSIONER DOHERTY
ISSUES A STATEMENT**Does Not Question Correctness of
News Leader's Information Wired
from Newport News.PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10.—The following statement, bearing the signature of the Hon. James C. McMillan, Commissioner of Labor and the first to be appointed to the office since the formation of the department, was issued to the press yesterday:

SUNDAY

MARCH 10, 1907

Commissioner Doherty issues a statement to the effect that he has no objection to the correctness of the information contained in the news leader's article, "The Doherty Commission," published in the "Philadelphia Evening Bulletin" yesterday.

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